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Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations**

United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report highlights initiatives and activities undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2006 to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. It provides an overview of the work of UNDP with indigenous peoples, with special focus on lands, territories and resources. The report is a contribution to provide information on and facilitate the work of the Permanent Forum. Further information on specific activities, projects and programmes is available from relevant UNDP offices.

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I. Policy framework

1. The corporate mandate, development cooperation processes and agreements of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the aspirations of indigenous peoples guide the Programme's engagement with indigenous peoples and their organizations. In the context of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004), and building on previous initiatives and experiences, UNDP issued a policy guidance note in August 2001 entitled: "*UNDP and indigenous peoples: a policy of engagement*". The objective of the policy note is to provide UNDP staff with a framework to guide their work with indigenous peoples. Centred on the Millennium Development Goals as set by world leaders at the World Summit in September 2000, it is underpinned by the normative human rights framework and recognizes indigenous peoples' vital role in and contribution to development. The launch of the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2014) on the theme "Partnership for action and dignity" has given the engagement of UNDP with indigenous peoples a fresh impetus.

2. In May 2000, UNDP established a Civil Society Organizations Advisory Committee to provide strategic advice to senior management on key policy directions. The 15 member Committee, which includes the chair of the Permanent Forum, has helped to bring indigenous peoples' concerns to the attention of the UNDP Administrator and senior management. National civil society advisory committees to United Nations country teams are being established in a number of countries to serve as a forum for dialogue and policy advice on a number of national development priorities, including issues related to indigenous peoples.

3. In April 2006, UNDP launched the "*UNDP and civil society organizations: a toolkit for strengthening partnerships*", which contains numerous tools to guide country offices in developing partnerships and programmes with civil society organizations and includes references to indigenous peoples' organizations. The tools include a methodology for mapping civil society organizations, capacity assessment, an operational guide for working with civil society organizations, information on the design and role of civil society organization advisory committees and a list of resources. The toolkit can be accessed online at http://www.undp.org/cso/documents/CSO_Toolkit_linked.pdf.

II. Human development reports

4. UNDP identifies a critical issue of global concern as the theme for its annual human development report. The reports provide important statistical information on the human development index and are major resource and advocacy tools in devising targeted policy and programmatic interventions at all levels, with particular focus on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

5. The *Human Development Report 2006, Beyond scarcity: power, poverty and the global water crisis*, highlights the linkage between water governance with rising inequality and unprecedented population growth and identifies poverty as the major constraint for access to clean water and discusses how identity is a factor in this regard. The report states that group identity is a marker for disadvantage in many countries, that in Latin America, this is reflected in disparities between indigenous and non-indigenous people, and that in Bolivia, the average rate of access to piped

water is 49 per cent for indigenous language speakers and 80 per cent for non-indigenous language speakers. The report is available online at http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/report.cfm.

6. The above-mentioned report also analyses the impact of large-scale development projects, stating that in the rush to develop large-scale infrastructure for irrigation or power generation, many Governments have ridden roughshod over the rights and claims of communities lacking bargaining power, with indigenous peoples often among the worst affected. The report also addresses the growing trend for privatization of State enterprises, and how this has exacerbated socio-economic problems even further. The report points out that one consequence of giving concessions to private companies for water management was that there were no provisions for protecting the customary rights of highly vulnerable indigenous people — a factor that became politically explosive. The report states that in Chile, for example, indigenous groups have also mobilized to use the legal system in a bid to reassert their claims. In 2004, the Aymara and Atacemenos indigenous groups in northern Chile secured a historic ruling that customary use establishes a prior claim that overrides subsequent private water rights.

Regional and national human development reports

7. UNDP also undertakes regional and national reports that serve as policy advocacy documents to take stock of human development and help draw attention to pressing development priorities. The *Asia-Pacific human development report (2006), Trade on Human Terms*, examines regional and international trade in the context of human security. With regard to indigenous peoples, the report notes that geographical indicators, labels identifying a good with attributable geographic features as originating in a particular territory, can protect local knowledge and natural endowments. Debates surrounding intellectual property rights have been particularly contentious for indigenous groups, and the report states that in 2004, the market value of pharmaceutical derivatives from indigenous peoples' traditional medicine was estimated at $60 billion. The report is available online at http://www.undprcc.lk/rdhr2006/rdhr2006_report.asp.

8. National human development reports analyse the development challenges facing indigenous peoples at the country level. The *Philippine human development report (2005), Peace, human security and human development in the Philippines*, cites exploitation and marginalization of indigenous cultural communities as one of the root causes of rebellion in the south of the country. A root cause for rebellion is identified as the exploitation and marginalization of indigenous cultural communities, including lack of respect for and recognition of ancestral domain and indigenous legal and political systems. The report is available online at http://hdr.undp.org/docs/reports/national/PHI_Philippines/Philippines_2005_en.pdf. The *Guatemala human development report (2005), Ethnic-cultural diversion: citizenry in a plural State*, provides important disaggregated data related to human development which sparked a national debate on government response to racism, discrimination and consistent exclusion. A follow-up to the report was elaborated during 2006 by a group of Mayan professionals and spiritual guides in an effort to clarify the concept of human development within the Mayan world view, examined in the book *Raxalaj Mayab' K'aslemalil* (2007).

9. The *Thailand human development report (2007)*, "Sufficiency, economy and human development", raises the issue of persistent malnutrition among indigenous children in remote northern areas. The report is available online at http://www.undp.or.th/NHDR2007/index.html. The *Nepal human development report (2004). Empowerment and poverty reduction*, focuses on the empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups and addresses the issue of structural discrimination. Indigenous people also experience violations of their inherited rights to natural resources and abrogation of their traditional land tenure systems, along with expropriations of their lands, displacements from their traditional homelands and heavy taxes, including some collected in the form of unpaid labour. The report is available at http://www.undp.org.np/publication/html/nhdr2004/index.php.

III. Global programmes

10. The Human Rights Strengthening Programme — 1999-2006 (HURIST) was a joint programme of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), aimed at integrating human rights into development programming processes by building the capacity of UNDP country offices, supporting the development of national human rights action plans, developing tools and methodologies on human rights-based approaches to development programming and documenting and disseminating good practices in the application of the human rights-based approach. HURIST supported the implementation of the first human rights policy of UNDP entitled "Integrating human rights with sustainable human development" (1998). The work of HURIST will be continued through the UNDP Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme (2007-2011).

11. In 2002, HURIST incorporated an indigenous peoples' component aimed at enabling implementation of the UNDP policy of engagement with indigenous peoples (2001) and creating a mechanism for dialogue at the national level to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in UNDP activities at both the policy and programme levels. In 2004, HURIST launched two pilot projects in Ecuador and Kenya, which are ongoing. In 2006, with funds from the Catalan Cooperation Agency, HURIST continued its work in Ecuador and expanded to Bolivia and Guatemala with three interlinked strategies: (a) to raise awareness of the human rights-based approach to development; (b) to develop the capacity of United Nations staff to address indigenous issues; and (c) to create consultative mechanisms between the United Nations system and indigenous peoples' organizations.

12. In 2006, the work of HURIST Kenya continued to focus on two specific outputs: (a) to create a forum for dialogue at the national level to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in UNDP activities at both the policy and programmatic levels; and (b) to sensitize and create awareness of indigenous human rights issues among United Nations agencies, members of parliament and relevant government agencies. The programme resulted in the formation of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee in Kenya (UNIPAK), which plays a key role in bringing together the United Nations and indigenous peoples. The process has strengthened information sharing and communication with indigenous peoples at the country level as well as exchanges to foster engagements with those communities. Specific activities included needs assessment reports as requested during regional consultations held across the country as part of the implementation of the HURIST programme.

13. As a tangible result from lessons and linkages and through its engagement in the fifth funding cycle of the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) programme, a global programme jointly implemented by OHCHR, UNDP and UNDP Kenya was able to mainstream indigenous peoples' projects into the funding procedure for ACT. As a result, from a total of eight community-based projects granted in 2006, six are being implemented by indigenous peoples' organizations. The projects are currently approaching completion and are implemented within the context of the first phase (2005-2007) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, with a focus on the primary and secondary school systems. Specific issues addressed are: (a) human rights education in primary and secondary learning institutions; (b) promotion of children's rights in conflict situations; (c) promotion of gender issues and women's rights; and (d) the issue of culture and its impact on the educational system.

14. HURIST Ecuador focuses on project development with the following three goals: (a) to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman for indigenous peoples; (b) to strengthen dialogue mechanisms at the national level that focus on the implementation of human rights through the establishment of a national indigenous peoples forum; and (c) to disseminate interculturalism and human rights in primary education curricula of the National Office of Intercultural and Bilingual Education.

15. Following up on the success of the pilot phase (2003-2004), HURIST Ecuador is currently in its second phase and is being implemented through the Office of the Ombudsman for indigenous peoples. One of the objectives of the project is to strengthen this governmental institution through capacity-building, the publication of its yearbook and through the elaboration of different studies on issues crucial to indigenous peoples including: (a) the incorporation of human and collective rights into the curriculum of the intercultural school system; (b) the meaning of free, prior and informed consent; and (c) the implementation of collective rights. Discussions are ongoing to identify the modalities for the creation of a consultative mechanism between the United Nations system and indigenous peoples. This is complemented by a process of consultation to elaborate a national report on indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Interculturalism, of which UNDP is an active member, contributes to the implementation of the project and has inspired the establishment of a similar mechanism for cooperation in Bolivia.

16. HURIST Bolivia operates under the framework of the HURIST programme and with support from the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation. In 2006, Bolivia initiated a project entitled "Dialogue about indigenous rights and intercultural society". Through this project, UNDP has promoted strong partnerships with other United Nations agencies to work on indigenous issues.

17. The HURIST project has facilitated the production and wide diffusion of two reports about indigenous peoples in Bolivia. The study entitled "Ethnic and linguistic diversity of the Bolivian population" was published and includes a geographical information system that details, from the national to the community levels, the ethnic and linguistic composition of the Bolivian population. It is based on an innovative methodology that combines the variables of self-identification, languages spoken and mother tongue, according to the data produced by the 2001 national census. On the basis of this methodology, the second publication entitled "Indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals" was conducted jointly by the Government's Unit of Economic and Social Policy Analysis and the

United Nations system. It identifies the gaps that exist between indigenous and non-indigenous populations regarding achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

18. In 2007, the project will work with the Unit of Economic and Social Policy Analysis in order to improve the existing sources of information (census, surveys, administrative records, etc.) and develop a system of indicators that better reflect indigenous perspectives on well-being.

19. The team in charge of the Bolivia national human development reports produces regular radio programmes about critical issues of development that are broadcast in Spanish and in the two major indigenous languages (Quechua and Aymara) of the country. In cooperation with the Ministry of the Presidency and the International Labour Organization (ILO) a technical workshop on the right to consult was held on 4 and 5 September 2006. A consultative workshop on the theme "Indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals" was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture. In addition, two internal capacity-building workshops have been held for United Nations staff.

20. HURIST Guatemala is being implemented jointly with a programme especially addressed to support civil society organizations and as part of the follow-up to the 1996 Peace Agreements. In Guatemala, the issue of human rights and indigenous peoples remains a serious challenge. The strategy to implement the human rights-based approach to development focuses on promoting the mechanisms created within the framework of the Peace Agreements. Thus, the consultative mechanism, the main thrust of the HURIST programme, is being developed by strengthening indigenous peoples' participation in the development councils, which are official spaces to consult and assess local and national development policies. In this context, both a series of videos in indigenous languages for capacity-building and a manual on social auditing have been produced. A toolkit on the implementation of the indigenous peoples' component into development projects as a cross-cutting issue has been developed, published, and disseminated widely through United Nations agencies and national non-governmental organizations. HURIST has also supported the elaboration of a study on the access to justice of indigenous peoples as recommended by the Access to Justice Subcommission of the Justice Commission, which was established through the Peace Agreements.

IV. Regional approaches to indigenous peoples' issues

21. In response to a demand for targeted interventions at the regional level, UNDP is currently implementing a demand driven indigenous specific programme in Asia. The $2 million Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development (information on the initiative is available at http://regionalcentrebangkok.undp.or.th/practices/governance/ripp) was established within the framework of the UNDP policy of engagement with indigenous peoples and has three interlinked strategies: (a) to enhance inter-country sharing of experiences on priority issues, particularly with regard to reducing the incidence of poverty among indigenous peoples; (b) to build capacity among all stakeholders, strengthen information networks and knowledge management systems, particularly among indigenous peoples; and (c) to support their full and effective participation in policy dialogue at all levels.

22. The regional initiative has developed a broad and diverse programme of work aimed at creating a space for regional cooperation and dialogue for Governments, indigenous peoples, United Nations agencies and civil society. The regional initiative is based at the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok and is funded through UNDP core resources, an indication of the commitment of UNDP to indigenous issues as part of its policy and programmatic approach.

23. The regional initiative commenced operations at the end of 2004 and is in its first phase. It has been endorsed by Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam and implements projects and activities in different countries around the region as outlined below. The regional initiative seeks to generate greater awareness of development challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the region and to strengthen the regional cooperation framework by emphasizing the need to bring indigenous peoples into the development discourse. It is overseen through a steering committee composed of indigenous peoples' representatives, Governments and UNDP and is underpinned by rights-based development approaches.

24. The regional initiative has been active in a number of projects during 2006, in close partnership with Governments, indigenous organizations and United Nations agencies working through UNDP country offices. In 2006, some 30 projects and programmes were led or partnered by the regional initiative, including analytical research, gap analysis, pilot projects and capacity development, with gender as a cross-cutting issue. Work undertaken in the programme is broadly divided into the following strategic areas: (a) law and policy; (b) natural resource management and land; (c) access to justice; and (d) capacity development.

Law and policy

25. The regional initiative strives to use governance systems to promote the rights and development choices of indigenous peoples. In this context, law and policy frameworks are an essential part of effective and sustained change. The regional initiative works on strengthening national policy and programming frameworks in a number of countries to offer a neutral space to bring together Governments, agencies and indigenous peoples' and civil society organizations to discuss and agree on frameworks for cooperation.

26. In Cambodia, UNDP is engaged in providing assistance to the Government in finalizing and implementing a policy on highland peoples' development, which is currently under consideration by the Council of Ministers. This is complemented by programmatic support to strengthen mechanisms for dialogue with agencies and indigenous peoples and is part of the ongoing work of UNDP in the country.

27. In Indonesia, the process of conducting an analytical review of law and policy brought together the Government, the National Human Rights Commission and indigenous peoples to discuss how to better align national laws and policies with the aspirations and rights of indigenous peoples. Another element of the engagement of the UNDP regional initiative included the official commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on 9 August 2006 for the first time in Indonesia, with the President of Indonesia attending the ceremony. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was also celebrated in a number of countries in Asia, including Bangladesh and Cambodia.

Natural resource management and land

28. In view of the centrality of this issue to indigenous peoples, and as a contribution to the sixth session of the Forum, the regional initiative conducted a series of studies on natural resource management policies and practices in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. The analysis of forest laws and policies and their impact on indigenous peoples highlights the link between natural resources, land and indigenous peoples' rights and the need to take greater account of this synergy when devising policies and programmes affecting indigenous peoples. The series includes a regional overview synthesizing best practices and lessons learned to guide future policy and practice. A common feature highlighted in all the studies, even where the status of indigenous peoples is recognized, are the policies of discrimination and exclusion of indigenous peoples in land ownership and natural resource management. Even where historical facts demonstrate that indigenous peoples hold rights to particular resources, they are ignored and the alienation of indigenous peoples' lands continues. The natural resource management series was implemented through focus group discussions and policy dialogue, which brought together indigenous peoples and government agencies.

29. The series was complemented by a pilot study on land use management in Viet Nam, which has been completed and the results of which were disseminated to policymakers. Those results will feed into a wider strategy on integrating indigenous rights into biodiversity and environmental protection legislation, in which government and indigenous organizations will play an active role.

Access to justice

30. The issue of access to justice and the interface between formal and customary law is critical to good governance and poverty reduction. The UNDP regional initiative has conducted a series of analytical case studies on this issue to assess the gaps and challenges to achieving more inclusive governance. Analyses from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, the Philippines and Thailand are part of a regional series on inclusive governance for disadvantaged groups being conducted in cooperation with the UNDP Asia Regional Governance Programme and the UNDP Asia-Pacific Gender Mainstreaming Programme. The case studies were carried out in a participatory and empowering process and highlight the root causes for legal marginalization of indigenous peoples, with land emerging as a critical issue. This is of particular relevance in the context of the thematic focus of the sixth session of the Forum. The studies also emphasize the need for greater recognition of customary rights and juridical pluralism as an effective means of providing equitable and easy access to justice for marginalized groups, and provide important input and guidance to UNDP programming at the country and regional levels.

Capacity development

31. Development of the capacity of all partners and stakeholders is a key element, and through training programmes, workshops, study tours and virtual e-learning networks the UNDP regional initiative seeks to increase awareness and capacity on indigenous peoples' issues. In partnership with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation and its local partners, the UNDP regional initiative is training indigenous women to develop their decision-making skills and capacity. As a follow-up to community-based training held in Bangladesh and Malaysia, including

sharing/exchange of experiences, in 2006, the UNDP regional initiative supported skills training in decision-making for indigenous women from Myanmar and the Philippines. Past training sessions have helped shape a community training manual on indigenous women and decision-making. The manual provides easy-to-use modules on how to orient and conduct trainings and helps indigenous women explore and understand the key challenges they face today. It also provides information on relevant national legislation and international laws that are relevant to indigenous women's rights.

32. Another initiative of the UNDP regional initiative, in cooperation with the UNDP Asia Regional Governance Programme, the Asia-Pacific Gender Mainstreaming Programme and Capacity 2015, is a targeted programme for Young Leaders in Governance aimed at strengthening the skills of future leaders. In 2006, two subregional training sessions were organized for South and South-East Asia, in which young indigenous leaders are also trained through the use of modules developed specifically for that purpose. In addition, follow-up on national training sessions were conducted by fellows of the Young Leaders in Governance programme in Bangladesh in partnership with the UNDP Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility, and in the Philippines. The Young Leaders in Governance programme will continue in 2007 with funding from the United Nations Democracy Fund.

33. The UNDP regional initiative is engaged in strengthening the application of the human rights-based approach to development as an advocacy tool, with a training manual and human rights training sessions in process, guided by a task force of indigenous experts. Within this framework, discussions are ongoing with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the initiative entitled "Engaging in dialogue", wherein the regional initiative is facilitating consultations with indigenous peoples on the safeguard review process of ADB.

Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

34. UNDP participated at a regional consultation with the Special Rapporteur held from 9 to 11 February 2007 in Phnom Penh. Indigenous representatives from all over Asia drew the attention of the Special Rapporteur to successes of, obstacles to and opportunities in addressing the issue of human rights of indigenous peoples today. The consultation was organized by the Tebtebba Foundation in close cooperation with the NGO forum.

35. The Special Rapporteur also gave a briefing on his work and mandate to United Nations country teams during a private visit to Thailand in February 2007. The briefing was organized by the regional initiative and helped raise awareness among United Nations staff of the rights of indigenous people in the Asian region.

36. The Special Rapporteur paid a follow-up visit to Guatemala in May 2006 to verify the implications of the recommendations made in 2003. On that occasion, the Indigenous Legal Defense, a Mayan organization applying the International Labour Organization Convention (No. 169) to claim collective rights, presented its second report, with the support of UNDP, on the implementation of the recommendations.

Data disaggregation

37. As a follow-up to the Forum's recommendation on the need for disaggregated data on indigenous peoples, the UNDP regional initiative piloted two data disaggregation projects.

38. A pilot project, implemented by the Tebtebba Foundation, addresses the lack of accurate information gathering vis-à-vis indigenous peoples. Working in close cooperation with the National Statistics Office of the Philippines in an effort to institutionalize disaggregation of data, the project has developed new tools for survey and census collection, which include both disaggregated data and specific indicators to reflect the development circumstances of indigenous peoples. Those tools will be shared with other offices and countries in the region.

39. In cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, the UNDP regional initiative provided support to Nepal Tamang Ghedung to disaggregate data using information collected during the 2001 population census and other relevant surveys in Nepal. The project assembled, compiled and disaggregated data from published and unpublished records, files, survey reports and documents of government bodies, departments, universities and census data in the Central Bureau of Statistics. The data was disaggregated on the basis of ethnicity, from the perspective of indigenous nationalities in Nepal, and includes statistics on demography, education, health, migration, economy, human development, human rights and the political status of caste and indigenous peoples/nationalities, including women and children.

V. Initiatives and activities at the country level

UNDP Bangladesh

40. In December 2005, UNDP Bangladesh initiated a five-year multisectoral development programme entitled "Promotion of development and confidence-building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts" for the resumption of a significant scale of international development assistance to the Chittagong Hill Tracts and to build confidence among the people and institutions there to promote long-term peace. The programme is supported primarily by the European Commission as well as by Australia, Japan, Norway and USAID, among others. The operational strategy of the project aims at reducing poverty, especially among the very poor, and to consolidate harmony and stability by helping local institutions to function more effectively and spearhead economic progress. The objective of this project is to revitalize the Chittagong Hill Tracts by empowering government institutions and communities to pursue their own development goals and by creating an enabling environment for poverty reduction, confidence-building and trust among all stakeholders.

41. The present condition of the majority of people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts underscores the need for immediate assistance and quick results. Today, more than 40 per cent of the population is unemployed and only 30 percent live above the national poverty line, while 50 per cent of children drop out of school sometime during their primary education. The infrastructure, such as roads and health facilities, has deteriorated to a practically unusable condition, while other such facilities have already been abandoned. Small development projects will be funded through the quick-impact fund, which will offer communities direct access to

microgrants to undertake small-scale health, infrastructure and employment projects that are conceived and managed locally. This is in response to the UNDP principle that communities know best about their problems, development needs and solutions, and once empowered in terms of organizational, technical and financial capabilities, they will provide the most effective means for realizing both peacebuilding and development opportunities. Further details are available online at http://www.un-bd.org/undp.

UNDP Bolivia

42. **Creation of a National Council for Dialogue**: through a consultative process with indigenous peoples' organizations and the Government of Bolivia, an agreement was signed on 14 December 2006 for the creation of a National Council for Dialogue that gathers representatives of the five major indigenous and peasant organizations in the country, on the one hand, and representatives of United Nations agencies in Bolivia, on the other. A delegate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also participates as an observer in the Council.

43. The Council is defined as a space for consultation, partnering, exchange and dialogue on central themes of national development policies, the Constituent Assembly and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Council approved an action plan for 2007 that includes the following main activities: (a) the strengthening of Bolivian participation in the Permanent Forum, starting with the sixth session, which also entails increasing awareness and information in the country about the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum at its sixth session; (b) the provision of expert assistance to the Constituent Assembly and to the indigenous organizations in matters related to international norms of human rights and indigenous rights; and (c) the incorporation of indigenous organizations in the consultation process for the elaboration of the 2008-2012 United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

44. **Creation of a United Nations inter-agency thematic group on intercultural issues**: the main objective of this thematic group is to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of the United Nations system on issues related to indigenous rights and interculturalism, and to provide support to the empowerment of indigenous peoples through increased partnerships with their representative organizations. The group has played a leading role in the process that has resulted in the creation of the National Council for Dialogue with Indigenous and Peasant Peoples mentioned in paragraph 42 above. These activities complement and are in support of the work of UNDP Bolivia under the HURIST programme described in paragraph 17.

UNDP Cambodia

45. UNDP Cambodia has provided support to the Royal Government of Cambodia through an access to justice programme and through the Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme in developing a policy on indigenous peoples' development. Such support was provided in close cooperation with the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Ethnic Minorities), and support has also been provided to the preparation of a strategic framework and action plan for indigenous peoples' development, which was complemented by direct support to indigenous peoples and their organizations in participating in national policy dialogue processes

and to an indigenous peoples' forum for development. In 2005, for the first time in Cambodia, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was celebrated, as it was in 2006, with UNDP support. UNDP also provides support to an indigenous youth network in Cambodia, including to a small team using media to disseminate and share the experiences and challenges faced by indigenous peoples in Cambodia.

46. In February 2007, a seminar aimed at providing a space for dialogue on indigenous peoples and access to land in Cambodia was organized by OHCHR, ILO and the NGO Forum on Cambodia, with support from UNDP. It brought together representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia, including the Secretary of State from the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Director-General of the Council for Land Policy and the Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Rural Development, indigenous peoples, civil society, donors and United Nations agencies to discuss key issues related to land and resource rights. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum also participated in the seminar. Indigenous peoples stressed the importance of land to their livelihoods, culture and identity and the increasing problems they face in gaining access to lands and natural resources as a result of land alienation, including through concessions.

47. A regional workshop on land was organized in Cambodia by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation in cooperation with the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs and other partners as a key contribution to the Permanent Forum's focus on land, territories and resources during its sixth session.

UNDP Ecuador

48. UNDP Ecuador has undertaken some initiatives to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. They include providing support for the process of establishing a council mandated to advise the United Nations system in Ecuador on the planning, implementation and evaluation of its policies and programmes on indigenous peoples and to assist the United Nations system in formulating strategies that promote and secure the implementation of the human rights and collective rights of indigenous peoples in the country. The Council will also provide support to the follow-up to the recommendations of the Forum and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people.

49. The United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Interculturalism is a mechanism aimed at coordinating the work of the United Nations system in Ecuador with relation to indigenous peoples and those of Afro-Ecuatorian descent, which is led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Working Group assists with the follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, and recently submitted its second report to the Forum.

50. The Special Rapporteur visited Ecuador in April 2006 and presented his report to the Human Rights Commission in 2007. He stressed the need to pay special attention to the increasing problems that indigenous peoples living in remote areas are faced with owing to illegal logging and other activities carried out in their territories. A press release on the visit of the Special Rapporteur is available at

http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/huricane.nsf/view01/E98A8F9551BA4621C1257165002C38F6?opendocument.

51. UNDP Ecuador has also begun to provide support for activities related to the protection of the rights of isolated indigenous peoples, including the process of establishing an inter-institutional coordination mechanism led by the Ministry of the Environment, identifying priorities for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples, and participating in the "*Seminario regional sobre pueblos indígenas aislados y en contacto incial de la amazonia y el Gran Chaco*" held in November 2006 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.

UNDP Kenya

52. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people visited Kenya from 4 to 14 December 2006 at the invitation of the Government. The visit was coordinated by the UNDP country office in the framework of an existing agreement with OHCHR and was organized in close cooperation with the Government of Kenya and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. This partnership was an important step in the process of enhancing indigenous peoples' issues in Kenya.

53. The United Nations Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee in Kenya, which was created through the HURIST programme described in paragraph 12 above, was instrumental in facilitating specific components for the visit of the Special Rapporteur. The members of the Advisory Committee were instrumental in organizing meetings between the Special Rapporteur and indigenous communities in various parts of the country, and the Special Rapporteur was able to visit many pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities during his mission, including Maasai communities in the Kaijado, Laikipia and Narok districts, the Ogiek in Mau Forest, the Endorois in Lake Bogoria, the Sengwer in the Cherangany hills and the Somali in the north-eastern region.

54. A national indigenous peoples' workshop was convened with the participation of indigenous representatives from all over the country. In the workshop, members of the Advisory Committee presented the main human rights challenges faced by their own communities as a result of engagement within the framework of the HURIST programme. The information provided was subsequently used by the Special Rapporteur in the preparation of his final report on the visit. A report on mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues as a result of implementation of the HURIST programme in Kenya was also launched at the workshop.

55. In his report, which was presented to the Human Rights Commission at its fourth session in March 2007, the Special Rapporteur analysed the different challenges faced by indigenous peoples in Kenya as well as a number of government initiatives that have started to address those challenges in recent times. Even though the term "indigenous" is not widely used by official institutions, the Government has acknowledged that pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities face a situation of discrimination and marginalization in relation to other segments of the national policy owing to historical injustices, exclusion from decision-making and failed development policies. As a result, the Government has currently embarked on a number of policies aimed specifically at improving the situation of those communities, including affirmative action measures, and has also started to recognize their distinct ways of life in the definition of development strategies.

56. Among the many challenges faced by indigenous peoples in Kenya, the Special Rapporteur underlined in his report the violation of their land and resource rights as a result of colonial practices; the widespread illegal allocation of titles in traditional indigenous lands; the creation of protected areas; the destruction of the forests; and policies aimed at the privatization of pastoralist lands. Those processes, linked to the environmental impact of development projects and the lack of recognition of indigenous traditional livelihoods, has left a balance of increased landlessness, resource-related conflicts and poverty. The Special Rapporteur recommended the urgent implementation of new land policies aimed at seeking redress for historical and contemporary injustices and the inclusion of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes that affect their communities. The report pays special attention to the overall situation of the marginalization of indigenous communities in their access to basic social services, including education and health, and the difficult situation faced by indigenous women across the country.

57. The partnerships enhanced by the Special Rapporteur during his visit and the findings of the mission are an important contribution to the national process of engaging with indigenous peoples in Kenya. This contribution comes at a time when the country is in the process of formulating a national action plan and policy on human rights that has already set out to consider indigenous peoples' issues in the process. This process has also so far received input from an expert meeting convened by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to explore how best to engage/incorporate indigenous peoples' issues into the process of formulation of the national action plan and policy on human rights.

UNDP Suriname

58. In Suriname, a $75,000 UNDP/Government project aimed at empowering indigenous and the Maroon (people of African descent) authorities to fully participate in a national land rights dialogue has been initiated, with support from the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund. A joint Indigenous Peoples and Maroons Land Rights Commission was established in February 2007 and is the official counterpart for further discussions with the Presidential Land Rights Commission, which comprises various governmental representatives.

59. UNDP Suriname is also providing support to the Ministry of Regional Development in formulating a comprehensive programme for regional development, with an emphasis on participatory planning. The collective rights of indigenous peoples and the tribal Maroons feature prominently in that process, including collective land rights and legal recognition of traditional authorities and the "community" entity.

VI. Global Environment Facility: small grants programme

60. Since 1992, the Global Environment Facility small grants programme has promoted grass-roots action to address global environmental concerns. The small grants programme allocates grants of up to $50,000 — with an average grant size of $20,000 — directly to non-governmental, community-based organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations to support their efforts to protect the environment while generating sustainable livelihoods. The programme is a corporate initiative of the Global Environment Facility, and is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the

three implementing agencies of the Facility, which include UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank. The programme currently operates through a decentralized management system in 95 developing countries around the world.

61. While the small grants programme is generally praised in comparison with other GEF operations, it is not without problems. Indigenous peoples and local community organizations complain that the procedures for securing GEF small grants remain complex and can often take months or even years to be approved. The GEF (2003) *Compilation of NGO interventions — GEF Council Meeting, May 2003*, is available at http://www.gefweb.org/Partners/partners-Nongovernmental_Organ/Compilation_of_NGO_Interventions_-_May_03_-_2003.pdf. At small grants programme consultations, indigenous participants complained that their proposals are often disregarded or bounce back from the National Steering Committees, and that in many cases indigenous peoples have difficulty in accessing the small grants programme system. The small grants programme has made efforts to develop more culturally appropriate and user-friendly procedures for securing funds, including an innovative method of using video and non-written application procedures piloted in Indonesia.

62. **Indonesia: visual proposal development for indigenous peoples.**[1] In March 2004, the National Steering Committee of the Indonesia small grants programme approved the introduction of video funding proposals for indigenous peoples and local communities in cases where written formats are culturally inappropriate. The first video proposal was compiled by the Orang Rimba people, requesting funds for a project to support community protection of their forest lands adjacent to the Bukit Dua Belas National Park in Sumatra. The making of the video proposal was made possible in April 2004 with a small grants programme planning grant. The initiative worked with an intermediary multilingual anthropologist and outside film-makers (both of whom were selected by the indigenous community as "trusted individuals"), abiding by the principle of free prior and informed consent with regard to project design and agreements. The memorandum of understanding for the project recognized a tailored in-kind contribution from the Orang Rimba in order to ensure compatibility with their economic and cultural circumstances.

63. The Orang Rimba proposed forming a living fence around their forest territory through the establishment of a series of gardens and settlements to defend the forest against illegal loggers, palm oil companies and colonists. The small grants programme project financed solar panels for the village schools so that young people could work on the establishment of the territorial demarcation during the day and engage in study in the evenings. Preparation for the project proposal video was found to be a useful tool for advocacy and education materials, and stimulated policy dialogue with national park and forest authorities.

[1] The full title of the project is Visual proposal development: an alternative to make small grants more accessible to indigenous peoples — case study: the living fence and the jungle school: protecting the Orang Rimba and their forest home, Bukit Dua Belas National Park, Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia power point presentation, GEF small grants programme, Indonesia.

Engaging with the Global Environment Facility small grants programme in Kenya: fostering national-level partnerships and access to resources

64. The United Nations Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee in Kenya participated in various forums at the national level. Of significance was the invitation from the national steering committee of the Global Environment Facility small grants programme to participate in their meeting and advise its members on how to better address indigenous peoples' issues in its small grants programme. This participation was in line with the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in which participatory video methodology was presented as an opportunity to access the small grants programme.

65. In ensuing consultations with indigenous communities at the grass-roots level, the communities highlighted environmental priorities. After evaluation by the Global Environment Facility small grants programme national steering committee, three participatory videos were produced in order to address environmental issues and to enhance the livelihoods of indigenous communities. Furthermore, the video proposals were presented to the national steering committee on 23 February 2007. In addition, the chair of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee in Kenya was invited to become a member of the small grants programme national steering committee in Kenya in order to promote further integration of indigenous peoples' issues into the national process.

Small grants programme — Promotion of Tropical Forests in Malaysia

66. The small grants programme — Promotion of Tropical Forests in Malaysia is part of a regional programme, the European Community-UNDP small grants programme for operations to promote tropical forests. The main community focus of the Promotion of Tropical Forests programme in Malaysia is on the indigenous peoples of the country.

67. The Promotion of Tropical Forests programme in Malaysia supports organizations working with indigenous communities to implement small forest-related projects that promote sustainable forest use. Since 2004, it has helped implement over 20 projects in various communities throughout Sarawak, Sabah and peninsular Malaysia. Unique to the Promotion of Tropical Forests in Malaysia is its provision of support to start up indigenous community-based organizations.

68. As of January 2007, it can be seen that providing support to indigenous organizations ensures a more direct outreach to target communities, even if more facilities and monitoring need to be put in place to ensure that they are able to comply with administrative and financial reporting requirements. The range of projects of the Promotion of Tropical Forests programme in Malaysia is broad in category and specific to the locale of the project. UNDP supports projects that demonstrate both economic enterprise and sustainable use of forests. In some areas, this means supporting direct reforestation and ecotourism, in other areas, it means supporting handicrafts or small agri- and food industries and in yet other areas, support of traditional knowledge documentation is essential to sustainable forest management. What is important is that the community is able to have a decisive stake in the management and implementation of the project and to be impacted directly as a result of the project. Further details are available at http://www.sgpptf.org/countries.asp?Country=Malaysia.

UNDP/GEF small grants programme in Suriname

69. The UNDP/GEF small grants programme in Suriname has over 20 community projects involving indigenous and the Maroon peoples, focusing on global environmental issues in relation to local sustainable livelihoods, for example, nature tourism and microhydro energy. In addition, the GEF small grants programme, in partnership with the Civil Society Organizations Division, has been working to facilitate indigenous peoples' access to grants through innovative methods, such as participatory video-making. Two consultative workshops were held in 2004 and 2005, and in 2006 a how-to handbook on participatory video-making, commissioned by the Global Environment Facility small grants programme, the Civil Society Organizations Division and HURIST, was launched.

VII. The Equator initiative

70. The Equator initiative is a partnership of UNDP, civil society, business, Governments and communities to help build the capacity and raise the profile of grass-roots efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Equator initiative works in close collaboration with indigenous organizations. Over 40 per cent of Equator Prize finalists and winners (2002-2006) identify themselves as indigenous groups, communities or initiatives. Through Equator dialogues, the Equator initiative creates a platform for local voices and celebrates the success of community action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through community dialogue spaces and special events, Equator dialogues draw critical attention to local development and conservation successes, while fostering peer-to-peer exchange and direct access to decision-makers and policy processes.

71. Most recently, at the Community Taba at the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity the Equator initiative partnered with the Intertribal Committee of Brazil to produce and organize the meeting space. In addition to participating in the daily programme of the Taba, indigenous groups from around the world coordinated several side events at the space and culture shares. Following the organization of a successful side event at the meeting, the Equator initiative has deepened its collaboration with the UNDP regional initiative, and is currently planning regional community dialogue spaces in Thailand and Papua New Guinea to take forward the recommendations surfacing from the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to mobilize for the Ninth Ordinary Meeting as they pertain to indigenous peoples' priorities in the field of biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

72. Furthermore, capacity development is an important aspect of the Equator initiative's engagement with indigenous people. For example, as a result of his work with the Equator initiative, and as an Equator Prize finalist in 2004, Gladman Chibememe, an indigenous Zimbabwean, and Secretary of the Chibememe Earth Healing Association, has been serving on the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. He and another indigenous leader, Donato Bumacas, Executive Director of the Kalinga Mission for Indigenous Children and Youth Development of the Philippines, have also facilitated a number of the community dialogue spaces. Most recently, the Kalinga Mission worked with the

Equator ventures team to elaborate a proposal to launch a microcredit facility for indigenous women in their community. The proposal has received private funding and is under development.

VIII. Millennium Development Goals

73. Over the past four years, UNDP has engaged in raising awareness of the Millennium Development Goals among indigenous peoples and their organizations at various international forums. UNDP seeks to collaborate with indigenous peoples and their organizations in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and recognizes that greater efforts are needed to include the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in the development of the country reports that monitor the progress of achievement of the Goals. Greater coordination between indigenous peoples' organizations and the Millennium Campaign remains a challenge.

74. UNDP builds the capacity of communities to localize the Millennium Development Goals by providing small grants to community-oriented sustainable development projects as well as through community-to-community learning exchange facilities that encourage the sharing of knowledge and best practices among community-based organizations. In addition, community dialogue spaces profile communities during global conferences and highlight the contribution of communities, and especially indigenous peoples, in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The dialogue spaces bring together representatives of communities and indigenous peoples with international governmental and civil society organizations leaders for a frank exchange on how to develop an enabling environment for community participation in regional development.

75. The policy dialogue on the theme "Localizing the Millennium Development Goals in Sarawak: improving equity in Sarawak", which was organized by the United Nations country team in Malaysia, discussed localizing the Millennium Development Goals, in particular from the perspective of improving spatial and ethnic equity in development outcomes in the lesser developed state of Sarawak in eastern Malaysia. The aim of the policy dialogue was to:

- take stock of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Sarawak
- identify priority strategies to overcome constraints
- create space for dialogue
- build awareness about the roles that can be played by stakeholders

This was a joint event with funding from the United Nations country team, the United Nations Children's Fund and UNDP.

76. The dialogue reviewed programmes that address poverty, including those in the Ninth Malaysia Plan, taking into account the special needs of indigenous communities, including challenges related to the dispersion of population over a vast terrain; locality, ethnicity, occupation and differences in values and culture, among others. Unintended, unmanaged, unheeded socio-economic factors can have impact on long-term growth and equity. There is a need to mainstream marginalized indigenous communities. While indicators of health-related Millennium Development Goals demonstrate good progress in Sarawak, sharp disparities exist

among rural and urban populations, ethnic groups and districts. Vulnerable groups include children, poor women, rural indigenous groups, the elderly, the disabled and migrant labour. The dialogue also addressed issues related to strategies aimed at improving environmental management, which is hindered by constraints posed by the limited manpower in enforcement agencies to monitor compliance, inadequate coordination of stakeholders and lack of public awareness. A summary report on the policy dialogue is available at http://www.undp.org.my/index.php?navi_id=7.

IX. Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

77. UNDP is an active member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. On 12 July 2006, the United Nations Development Group, of which UNDP is the chair, endorsed a proposal to draw the attention of United Nations country teams to the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and to take appropriate actions in this regard to the extent possible. The United Nations Development Group also recommended that the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, composed of 30 United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes and other intergovernmental organizations, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group Programme Group, provide support and guidance in mainstreaming indigenous issues in operational activities of the United Nations by working through existing mechanisms and procedures. UNDP is a member of the task force established to implement this recommendation.

X. Conclusions and recommendations

78. **UNDP welcomes the opportunity to work with the Permanent Forum in ensuring greater engagement of indigenous peoples in the policies and programmes of UNDP, and determining how to ensure that responsive governance mechanisms are more effective. UNDP looks forward to strengthening its cooperation with and receiving advice from indigenous peoples on how to improve its work in order to ensure greater conformity with the rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples and to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.**